



## Flat Rolled Products

Trentwood Works

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

November 13, 2007

Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
N. 4601 Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205

Re: Comments on Kaiser Aluminum Fabricated Products Draft NPDES Permit  
Permit No. WA-0000892

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter sets forth the comments of Kaiser Aluminum Fabricated Products, LLC (Kaiser) on the above-referenced draft NPDES Permit (Draft Permit). Kaiser appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft permit. Kaiser understands that the comment period has been extended and now closes at the end of business on November 13, 2007.

- 1. The effective date of the Permit should be set for 120 days after Permit issuance to allow for required infrastructure upgrades.**

The Draft Permit contains several revisions to the monitoring requirements (comments on some of these monitoring requirements are set forth below). Certain of these new requirements mandate the installation of additional sampling and monitoring infrastructure. To meet these requirements, Kaiser will need sufficient time to purchase and install this additional infrastructure.

For example, sampling requirements for the new Outfall 006, if finalized as proposed, will require the purchase and installation of equipment for collection of 24 hour composite samples. See Draft Permit at S2.A. The facility currently only has the ability to collect grab samples. In addition, continuous monitoring for parameters such as pH and temperature also are proposed at multiple locations, and Kaiser must install infrastructure to measure and record this information.

To allow sufficient time to purchase and install this equipment, Kaiser requests that the effective date of the Permit be set for 120 days after issuance of the Permit.

**2. The definition of "continuous" should be modified, for purposes of flow data, to address data interruption.**

The term "continuous" is defined in the Draft Permit as "uninterrupted – except for brief lengths of time for calibration, power failure, or for unanticipated equipment repair or maintenance." See Draft Permit at S2.A. During the normal course of data collection and recording, information can be unrecoverable due to computer "crashes." In addition, sensor failures or malfunctions may go undetected for periods of time. While the definition of "continuous" provides guidance for data collection for parameters related to the physical or chemical characteristics of the discharge, it does not address the interruption or loss of flow data, since not all flows are monitored by open channel flow devices.

Kaiser, therefore, requests that the definition of "continuous" be modified by adding the following language: "With respect to flow monitoring, the average of the flow during a representative period prior to and following a data loss period shall be deemed to be the flow during a data loss period."

**3. pH monitoring at Outfalls 002 and 006 should be changed to grab samples.**

The Draft Permit proposes a continuous monitoring requirement for pH at new Outfall 006 and for existing Outfall 002. See Draft Permit at S2.A. Outfalls 002 and 006 are internal outfalls, and Outfall 001, the final discharge point to the Spokane River, has both an existing and proposed requirement for continuous monitoring of pH. In addition, the Draft Permit also requires monitoring of pH by grab sample at Outfall 003, another internal outfall. Although the applicable effluent guidelines identify pH as a parameter of concern, the guidelines do not require continuous pH monitoring.

Kaiser, therefore, requests that the monitoring requirement at Outfalls 002 and 006 be changed from continuous monitoring to daily grab samples, which would be consistent with the existing internal outfall monitoring requirements.

**4. Temperature monitoring at Outfalls 002 and 006 should not be required.**

The Draft Permit proposes a continuous monitoring requirement for temperature at new Outfall 006 and for existing Outfall 002. See Draft Permit at S2.A. Outfalls 002 and 006 are internal outfalls, and Outfall 001, the final discharge point to the Spokane River, has both an existing and proposed requirement for continuous temperature monitoring. The effluent guidelines do not identify temperature as a parameter of concern.

Because temperature already is monitored at a downstream location immediately prior to the discharge, Kaiser requests that the temperature monitoring at internal Outfalls 002 and 006 be dropped.

**5. Flow at Outfall 001 should be determined by adding flows at Outfalls 006 and 007.**

The Draft Permit requires that flow be monitored continuously by meter. See Draft Permit at S2.A. Flow currently is monitored at Outfall 001 by summing all internal flows (Outfalls 002, 003, 004 and 005), as well as the excess flow over and above process water needs from the extraction well system. Kaiser requests that the continuous monitoring requirement for flow be clarified to state that flow at Outfall 001 "shall be determined by summing the metered flows at internal Outfalls 006 and 007." This is a similar approach to the calculation of river intake flow.

**6. Aluminum and chromium limitations at Outfall 006 should be increased to reflect capacity increases at the facility.**

The draft Fact Sheet explains that, for the Outfall 006 effluent limitations, Ecology derived potential permit limitations based on Best Practical Technology (BPT)/Best Available Technology (BAT) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and flow-based non-scope waters calculations. See Draft Fact Sheet at 9. Ecology then compares these potential "guidelines-based" permit limits to the current Permit limits at Outfall 001. For cyanide, oil & grease, and total suspended solids, the Draft Permit limits were more stringent than the current Outfall 001 permit limitations. As a result, Ecology has proposed the "guidelines-based" permit limitations as the Draft Permit limitations for those three parameters. For aluminum and chromium, however, the "guidelines-based" limitations are less stringent than the current Outfall 001 limitations. Kaiser has been able to comply with the more stringent current limitations and, as a result, Ecology has proposed to retain the more stringent current limitations for aluminum and chromium in the Draft Permit. These proposed limits for aluminum and chromium, however, do not recognize the impact of the facility's capacity increases.

Kaiser requests, therefore, that the calculated NSPS allowances for the capacity increases for aluminum and chromium be added to the existing Outfall 001 permit limitations. For aluminum, this means that the monthly average limitation would increase by 3.2 lbs/day to 26.6 lbs/day, and the daily maximum limitation would increase by 7.2 lbs/day to 54 lbs/day. For chromium, the monthly average limitation would increase by 0.2 lbs/day to 2.3 lbs/day, and the daily maximum limitation would increase by 0.4 lbs/day to 5.5 lbs/day.

**7. Total zinc effluent limitation at Outfall 001 should be corrected per the Fact Sheet.**

The draft Fact Sheet contains Ecology's calculations for daily maximum and monthly average permit limitations for total zinc. See Draft Fact Sheet at 43. The calculated limits are 146.3 µg/L daily maximum and 75.3 µg/L monthly average. The draft Permit, however, contains a proposed daily maximum limit of 146 µg/L and a proposed monthly

average of 73 µg/L. See Draft Permit at S1.A.1. It appears that two digits related to the monthly average limitation were transposed.

Kaiser requests, therefore, that the Outfall 001 monthly average permit limit for total zinc be corrected to 75 µg/l.

**8. The current compliance demonstration methodology should remain in place.**

Footnote a to S1.A.2 of the Draft Permit states that:

Discharge quantities of Chromium, Aluminum, Oil & Grease, and TSS shall be calculated on a net basis by subtracting plant intake water loadings from Outfall 006 loadings. When sample measurements for compliance with mass-based limits fall below the MDL, the average loading shall be calculated using a concentration value of zero. When sample measurements for compliance with mass-based limits fall above the MDL, the average loading shall be calculated using the measured concentration.

While Kaiser believes that it is appropriate for river intake to be taken into account for compliance demonstration, the current compliance demonstration methodology should remain in place.

Kaiser, therefore, requests that footnote a to S1.A.2 be revised as follows:

Discharge loadings for Total Chromium, Total Aluminum, Oil & Grease and TSS shall be determined using Outfall 006 concentrations and flow rates. The Permittee may alternatively determine these quantities on a net basis by subtracting plant intake loadings from the Outfall 006 loadings. When this method is used, the Department will utilize these results for the purpose of verifying compliance with the discharge limitations. When sample measurements for compliance with mass-based limitations fall below the MDL, the average loading shall be calculated using a concentration value of zero. When sample measurements for compliance with mass-based limitations are above the MDL, the average loading shall be calculated using the measured concentration.

**9. Sections of the existing Agreed Orders should be rescinded, as applicable**

Kaiser has entered into two Agreed Orders with the Department of Ecology (Amended Order No. 2868 and Agreed Order No. 02WQER-3487). These Orders have been incorporated, in large part, into the Draft Permit. The incorporated sections deal mainly with sampling obligations.

Kaiser requests that, in conjunction with this Permit renewal, Ecology initiate the appropriate actions to rescind the applicable sections of these two Orders, so that the requirements and enforceability thereof are defined in a single document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information regarding Kaiser's comments. I can be reached at (509) 927-6554.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard P. Leber, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Bernard P Leber, Jr.  
Environmental Engineering Manager

CC: Patrick Hallinan – Ecology ERO